

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America Grant

Document Type:	Modification to Previous Grants Notice
Funding Opportunity Number:	MFA-FY08
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary
Current Closing Date for Applications:	Nov 01, 2007
Award Ceiling:	\$150,000
Award Floor:	\$5,000
CFDA Number:	45.301 -- Museums for America
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes

Eligible Applicants

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
County governments
State governments
Private institutions of higher education
Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
City or township governments

Additional Information on Eligibility:

All types of museums, large and small, are eligible for funding. Eligible museums include aquariums, arboretums and botanical gardens, art museums, youth museums, general museums, historic houses and sites, history museums, nature centers, natural history and anthropology museums, planetariums, science and technology centers, specialized museums, and zoological parks. Federally operated and for-profit museums may not apply for IMLS funds. An eligible applicant must be: • either a unit of state or local government or a private not-for-profit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code; • located in one of the fifty states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia; and • a museum that, using a professional staff, (1) is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes; (2) owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate; (3) cares for these objects; and (4) exhibits these objects to the general public on a regular basis through facilities which it owns or operates. An organization uses a professional staff if it employs at least one professional staff member, or the fulltime equivalent, whether paid or unpaid primarily engaged in the acquisition, care, or exhibition to the public of objects owned or used by the institution. An organization “exhibits objects to the general public” if such exhibition is a primary purpose of the institution. Further, an organization which exhibits objects to the general public for at least 120 days a year shall be deemed to exhibit objects to the general public on a regular basis. An organization which exhibits objects by appointment

may meet the requirement to exhibit objects to the general public on a regular basis, if it can establish, in light of the facts under all the relevant circumstances, that this method of exhibition does not unreasonably restrict the accessibility of the institution's exhibits to the general public. Please note that an organization which does not have as a primary purpose the exhibition of objects to the general public, but which can demonstrate that it exhibits objects to the general public on a regular basis as a significant, separate, distinct, and continuing portion of its activities, and that it otherwise meets the museum eligibility requirements, may be determined to be eligible as a museum under these guidelines. A museum located within a parent organization that is a state or local government or multipurpose non-profit entity, such as a municipality, university, historical society, foundation, or a cultural center, may apply on its own behalf, if the museum: (1) is able to independently fulfill all the eligibility requirements listed above; (2) functions as a discrete unit within the parent organization; (3) has its own fully segregated and itemized operating budget; and (4) has the authority to make the application on its own. When any of the last three conditions cannot be met, a museum may apply through its parent organization. Prospective applicants that cannot fulfill all of these requirements should contact IMLS to discuss their eligibility before applying. IMLS may require additional supporting documentation from the applicant to determine the museum's autonomy. Each eligible applicant within a single parent organization should clearly delineate its own programs and operations in the application narrative. A parent organization that controls multiple museums that are not autonomous but which are otherwise eligible may submit only one application per grant program; the application may be submitted by the parent organization on behalf of one or more of the eligible museums.

Description:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services administers a variety of grant programs that advance the value of museums and libraries as critical resources for a nation of learners. Museums for America (MFA) is the largest grant program for museums at IMLS, providing more than \$17 million to support the role of museums in American society. The goal of MFA is to strengthen the ability of a museum to serve the public more effectively by supporting high-priority activities that advance the institution's mission and strategic goals. Applicants can apply for projects in one of the following three categories:• Engaging Communities (Education, Exhibitions, and Interpretation)• Building Institutional Capacity (Management, Policy, and Training)• Collections Stewardship Fiscal year (FY) 2008 MFA funding will support projects and activities that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning and as important institutions in the establishment of livable communities. MFA grants can fund ongoing museum activities; improvement of institutional infrastructure; planning; new programs or activities; management of collections, public access, professional development, purchase of equipment or services; research and scholarship; or efforts of museums to upgrade and integrate new technologies into their overall institutional effectiveness.

Link to Full Announcement:

URL for program guidelines and information on IMLS Website -
<http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/forAmerica.shtm>

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=15486>